

House: Legislative Assembly- QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Date: Tuesday, 30 May 2006

Member: **Castrilli, Mr John; McGinty, Mr Jim**

Subject: **SOUTH WEST MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE - PROPOSED MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC, BUNBURY**

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SOUTH WEST MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE - PROPOSED MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC, BUNBURY

1175. Mr G.M. **Castrilli** to the Minister for Health

(1) Can the Minister for Health please advise when the final plans for the proposed new **Mental Health** Clinic which received a budget of \$2.4M in February 2005 will be completed?

(2) Can the Minister for Health please advise when the proposed new **Mental Health** Clinic (MHC) will begin construction?

(3) Can the Minister for Health please advise when the proposed new MHC will be completed and when it will become operational?

(4) Can the Minister for Health confirm the size of the new MHC in square metres at the time the budget of \$2.4M was allocated?

(5) Can the Minister for Health confirm what the size in square metres on the draft plans presented to Treasury in May 2006?

(6) Does the Minister for Health believe that an open plan environment is appropriate for distressed **mental health** patients and staff dealing with confidential enquiries?

(7) Can the Minister for Health advise why was the plan not replicated from a tried and tested plan such as that at Osborne Park?

(8) Can the Minister for Health advise how many consulting rooms will be in the new clinic?

(9) Can the Minister advise how many consulting psychologists and psychiatrists are currently operational at the South West Clinic?

(10) Can the Minister advise if there will be additional offices included in the new clinic plan for the potential expansion for future services?

(11) Can the Minister advise if the new clinic will have a group therapy room and if so, what size this room will be?

(12) Can the Minister advise what facilities will be provided for treatment rooms in the new clinic, how many room and what sizes?

(13) Can the Minister give an assurance that additional funds will be allocated to complete the project based on the original square metre area if required due to building cost blowouts or required additions to the facility to accommodate needs?

Mr J.A. McGINTY replied:

1. Design plans are to be completed by 1 June 2006. Full contract documentation is planned to be completed by 7 August 2006.
2. The construction period is planned to commence from 31 October 2006.
3. Construction is planned to be completed by 10 September 2007 with the unit becoming operational in October 2007.
4. There was no specific size announced with the original budget. The area is dependent on the design of the unit. The budget for this project has increased to \$3.18 million as part of the business case development process.
5. The clinic will be 500 square metres in size.
6. The clinic provides office accommodation for community staff who work with clients in their homes. In addition, there are interview rooms, consulting rooms and office/consulting rooms for work with individuals and areas for family therapy, play therapy, medical treatment and group rooms. The design specifically includes an external area for the de-escalation of distressed clients. Except for the family therapy and group rooms, there are no open environment therapy areas.

The clinic has been designed in accordance with the Private Hospitals Guidelines, which are used for the development of all Australian public hospitals, and State government design guidelines. The State guidelines recommend that up to 80% of staff should use open plan workstations. There are 7 individual office areas and 18 open plan workstations for clinic staff. The workstations represent 70% of the work areas. These will be constructed using materials, technology and design features so that patient confidentiality will be assured and noise between workstations will be minimised. All staff work within professional and organisational confidentiality policies.

7. The clinic has been designed following research into contemporary facilities both in WA and NSW and visits have been made to review the facilities in the metropolitan area. The architect involved with designing the clinic has recent experience of similar projects.

8. The clinic will have 4 consulting/interview rooms plus 3 offices that have been designed so that they can be used for patient consultation.

9. There is 1 permanent full time equivalent (FTE) clinical psychologist with an additional 1 FTE on temporary contract and there is 1.5 FTE specialist psychiatrists.

The service is advertising for a specialist child and adolescent psychiatrist in May 2006 to replace a recent resignation and plans to advertise for a clinical director and consultant psychiatrist for the adult program within the coming weeks.

10. The clinic has been planned to accommodate existing staff. It is anticipated that future facility developments will be located in closer proximity to where patients live within the South West. This will increase services available to local people and reduce the need for outreach from Bunbury.

11. The clinic will include 2 group rooms, each of 20 square metres. These adjoin each other and can be opened into one area when required for larger groups by the installation of concertina walls/doors. Due to the proximity to the Acute Psychiatric Unit, and in line with plans to deliver joint therapy programs, the clinic will have access to additional facilities including a large therapy area, 2 large group rooms, an activities area and kitchen.

12. The clinic will include 1 room for medical examination and treatments, storage and administration of medications and operation of the Clozapine Clinic and is 15 square metres in size.

13. Escalation costs have been included in the revised budget figure.